

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the following remarks.
Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 are independent.
The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 10.

II. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-15 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over, U.S. Patent No. 6,246,266 issued to Bosshart (hereinafter "Bosshart") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,421,614 issued to Yamaguchi et al (hereinafter "Yamaguchi"). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a method for reducing the magnitude of the rate of current change for an integrated circuit. According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for reducing a magnitude of a rate of current change for an integrated circuit comprises a step of determining when power consumption by an integrated circuit needs to be reduced and a step of gradually *reducing an amount of current sourced by a power supply* based on the determination. See Specification, paragraph [0005]. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application require, in part, reducing an amount of current sourced by a power supply.

Contrastingly, Bosshart is directed to a dynamic logic circuit 16 operable in an active mode and in a power down mode, where the active mode comprises a pre-charge

phase and an evaluate phase. *See* Bosshart, Abstract. With reference to Figure 2 of Bosshart, the dynamic logic circuit 16 of Bosshart includes a p-channel transistor 18_{INVP}. Because the transistor 18_{INVP} is a p-channel transistor, application of a positive V_{GS} to the transistor will reduce the amount of current that the transistor will pass, therefore, reducing the current leaked through 18_{INVP}. *See* Bosshart, column 10, lines 50-56. The reduction in the current leaked through 18_{INVP} will then stabilize the voltage potential at node 18_{N3}. *See* Bosshart, column 10, lines 50-56. Though Bosshart discloses the reduction of the amount of current leaked through the transistor, it fails to disclose reducing an amount of current sourced by a power supply as required by independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application.

Further, according to one or more aspects of the present invention a method for reducing the magnitude of rate of current change comprises gradually reducing the current amount by sequentially switching a plurality of devices connected to the power supply. With reference to Figure 2a of the present application, once low values are generated on signals C_0 , C_1 , C_2 , and C_3 , the transistors 34, 36, 38, and 40 turn *off* sequentially forming *open circuits*. *See* Specifications, paragraph [0016]. As a result, the current sourced from the power supply V_{DD} is reduced in a stepwise manner. *See* Specifications, paragraph [0016]. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application require in part, gradually reducing the current amount by sequentially switching a plurality of devices connected to the power supply.

Bosshart does not teach gradually reducing the current amount by sequentially switching a plurality of devices connected to the power supply. *See* Final Office Action, Page 2. In view of the above, Bosshart fails to disclose the present invention as described

in independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application.

Like Bosshart discussed above, Yamaguchi fails to disclose all the limitations of independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application or supply that which Bosshart lacks. Yamaguchi is directed to method for bypassing the electric current of at least one cell of an electrolytic apparatus using a series combination of a resistor and a switch connected in parallel to the terminals of the cell to be repaired or replaced. *See* Yamaguchi, Abstract. With reference to Figure 3 of Yamaguchi, by *closing* the switches associated with each resistor, the electrolytic current flowing in the electrolytic cell 2 is allowed to flow in the resistors in a step wise manner, substantially illuminating the instantaneous reverse current flowing through the cell. *See* Yamaguchi, column 3, lines 19-26. Therefore, the current flowing through the circuit is merely redirected through the resistors and the amount of current sourced from the power supply is not *gradually reduced by sequentially switching a plurality of devices* as required by independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application.

Further, Applicant notes that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Bosshart and Yamaguchi. There must be a suggestion or motivation to combine the references within the prior art references themselves. In other words, regardless of whether prior art references can be combined, there must an indication within the prior art references *expressing desirability* to combine the references. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (emphasis added). Further, the present application *cannot be used as a guide* in reconstructing elements of prior art references to render the claimed invention obvious. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991) (emphasis added).

Bosshart is directed to a dynamic logic circuit operable in an active mode and in a

power down mode, where the active mode comprises a pre-charge phase and an evaluate phase. *See* Bosshart, Abstract. On the other hand, Yamaguchi is directed to a method for bypassing the electric current of at least one cell of an electrolytic apparatus using a series combination of a resistor and a switch connected in parallel to the terminals of the cell to be repaired or replaced. *See* Yamaguchi, Abstract. There is no reason taught, either explicitly or implicitly, in Bosshart to have the recited feature of Yamaguchi or vice versa, and it is clear to one skilled in the art that Bosshart and Yamaguchi are wholly unrelated. Thus, there is no suggestion within either Bosshart or Yamaguchi to incorporate, or otherwise combine, the teachings of one another.

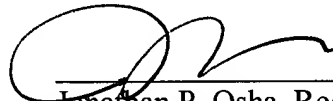
In view of the above, (i) Bosshart and Yamaguchi, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to disclose all the limitations of independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application, and (ii) Bosshart and Yamaguchi are not properly combinable in a rejection against the present application. Thus, independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application are patentable over Bosshart and Yamaguchi. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VII. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226.103001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/15/04



Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986
Osha & May L.L.P.
One Houston Center, Suite 2800
1221 McKinney Street
Houston, TX 77010
Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778